



Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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13 February 1992

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Burundi

Minister Details New Press Law, Council

EA0802074092 Bujumbura Radio-Television Nationale
du Burundi Radio in French 1100 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Excerpts] All has been done—the president of the Republic, signed a decree on 4 February on the new law on the press in Burundi. The law was drafted by media people and private individuals. It falls within the general framework of the profound changes through which Burundi is living today. Two laws which controlled the Burundian press already existed, those of 1976 and 1977, which gave the broadcast media a monopoly. What are the innovations compared to the previous laws? This is the question that our colleague, Pascasie Minani, asked the minister of communications, culture, and sports, Mr. Frederic Ngenzeuhoro.

[Begin Ngenzeuhoro recording] Today we say that the period of a monopoly is completely over. You know that the press must be commensurate with the times in which we are living. Today we are living in a democracy. There is a need to democratize the press. Very soon we shall have a pluralistic system. Pluralism will have to be supported by a private pluralistic press with a diversity of opinions. We therefore believe that it is the right time to liberalize the press. The first innovation, therefore, intrinsic in the law, is the liberalization of the press. In fact, the first article of the law loudly proclaims the freedom of the press and of expression. Thus, henceforth, the press has been liberalized in this country. Whoever has the means, whoever fulfills the required conditions, can set up a private press of his choice.

In other words, anyone who wishes to start a newspaper will be able to do so. They can start up a radio or television station in this country as long as they fulfill the required conditions. From now on they will be able to do so and will have to obey existing laws.

The other new thing is that up to now all the decisions which were made previously by the press were decisions coming from the authorities. Today, the authorities will have to consult a new organ which was created called the National Council for Communications. The National Council for Communications will have well-defined duties. It will make decisions concerning [word indistinct] before the latter are implemented. Therefore, there has been a change. Decisions are no longer made by one authority as was the case. Now there is to be consultation before a decision. The National Council for Communications will be made up of various people who are acquainted with the profession. From this it is hoped that the Council will provide guidance in the sector, which I must say is very delicate, especially in future [word indistinct]. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Already, the government is prepared to offer some financial benefits to those who need to create organs of the press since at the start people remain uncommitted about investments in that sector.

Cameroon

Anglophone Movement To Demonstrate for Autonomy

AB1102221692 London BBC World Service in English
1705 GMT 10 Feb 92

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Cameroon's beleaguered government is having plenty of problems with demands [words indistinct] progress towards multipartyism and recent Muslim-Christian clashes. It also has to contend with English speakers in the northwest who (?look) back to the days when the area was separate. Herbert Bo faxed this report from Bamenda:

[Begin studio announcer recording] Many taxicab drivers in the English-speaking town of Bamenda, (?are acting again) in opened defiance, flying the former Cameroon flag with two yellow stars and a green stripe. It is all part of demonstrations calling for the restoration of an autonomous West Cameroon state.

The demonstrations, whose climax is expected here tomorrow, are organized by the Cameroon Anglophone Movement, CAM, which is spearheading the call for an immediate return to federalism in the country. The movement claims to have already collected thousands of signatures on a petition addressed to the secretary general of the United Nations, inviting the UN to have Cameroonian authorities respect the terms of the parliamentary union signed between Francophone and Anglophone Cameroon in February 1961.

The movement is calling for street demonstrations tomorrow, Federation Day, in the English-speaking part of the country in memory of the United Nations organized plebiscite on February 11, 1961 which led to unification. CAM's demands are modest by comparison with some of those of the former chairman of the Cameroon Bar Association, Von Goti Dinka, who advocates outright secession.

Although the Cameroonian authorities are acting calm, it is clear that a confrontation is in the making. At least six loads of soldiers arrived in Bamenda yesterday night from Yaounde and there have been reports of more troop movements in the direction of Kumbo, the only locality where tomorrow's demonstrations have been officially banned. [end recording]

Chad

Two Security Units Disbanded for Recent Actions

AB1102211792 Njamena Radiodiffusion Nationale
Tchadienne in French 1900 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Text] The government has decided to take strong actions to end the insecurity in Njamena. The Ministry of Defense has announced the punishment for security units found guilty of atrocities recently in the capital.

The Mobile Intervention Squad has been dissolved and the officer who ordered the actions has been placed under close arrest [arret de rigueur]. This decision follows bloody incidents which occurred last week in the (Adedoumba) quarter of the capital.

This morning Monique Ngarasoumaye interviewed the minister of defense, Mr. Nadjita Beassoumal, let us listen to him:

[Begin Beassoumal recording] We noticed at the command control that some soldiers who were sent to a certain place seemed to have taken sides, which led to lives being lost. A report on this incident was sent to the command and after studying it, we determined the nature of the mistake committed and reported it directly to the president of the Republic. As far as the Ministry of Defense is concerned, and as far as the Gendarmerie is concerned, we have taken a certain number of measures. The first measure involved dissolving the units which intervened, namely, the Mobile Intervention Squad and also the Coordinating Squad.

Now, concerning the men who participated in this incident, we handed them over directly to the Gendarmerie command. The Army personnel were turned over to the Army command. Concerning the officer who sent the two intervention units, he has been subjected to military punishment. So right now he is under close arrest.

The third measure taken involves an investigation into the Gendarmerie to discover why the lives were lost. So, as I have told you, concerning the military action, the two units which participated in the incidents, namely, the Mobile Intervention Squad and the Coordination Squad, have been dissolved. Those who carried out the orders have been turned over to the Army and the Gendarmerie, and the officer who sent the mission is currently under close arrest. These are the measures that have been taken. [end recording]

Congo

Referendum Postponed Due To 'Irregularities'

AB1202152092 Paris AFP in French 0802 GMT
12 Feb 92

[Text] Brazzaville, 12 Feb (AFP)—The Higher Council of the Republic [CSR], the transitional legislative body, decided yesterday evening to postpone the constitutional referendum scheduled for Sunday, 16 February. This was learned this morning from an official source. No other date has been announced. The postponement had been demanded of the government by all the opposition parties as a result of the mistakes and irregularities observed in the organization of the census, it was learned from a source close to the CSR.

On 10 February, the CSR chairman, Monsignor Ernest Kombo, said that "information" in his "possession does not make it possible to give the green light for the 16 February ballot." The decision was made by a majority

of CSR members—78 out of 120 council members—following a rowdy debate which lasted for over five hours in the presence of Interior Minister Alexis Gabou. A commission comprising members of government and the CSR is to be set up as of today to revise the voters' register.

According to several members of the council, many voters received several voters' cards, and even children received some of the voters' cards.

Interior Minister Alexis Gabou admitted during the debates that mistakes had been made in the organization of the census but, according to him, that could not compromise the holding of the referendum. He disclosed that an inquiry had begun in the wake of the printing by a "criminal organization" of 1,000 voter's cards bearing a "no" inscription.

Local, legislative, and presidential elections, the first under a multiparty system in 20 years, are scheduled to be held between now and June after the adoption of the Constitution.

CSR Approves New Elections Timetable

AB1202193592 Brazzaville Radio Nationale
Congolaise Network in French 1830 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] The Higher Council of the Republic [CSR] has just approved the new election timetable. This follows deliberations at the plenary session this afternoon. Here is Gilbert David Mussakala with the details:

[Begin recording] At a plenary session meeting this afternoon, the councilors of the Republic adopted the new election timetable. In fact, it is a partial amendment to the previous timetable. Thus, the constitutional referendum will now take place on 15 March, whereas local council elections have been postponed to 29 March. Legislative and presidential elections will take place as scheduled, that is, 21 April and 2 May for the legislative elections; and June for the presidential elections.

The councilors of the Republic have also set aside the period of 17 February to 5 March for checking the voter's registrar. Candidates for local council elections should submit their names between 18 and 28 February.

Concerning election supervision, the CSR has selected 91 councilors, 21 of whom will make up the national supervision commission. [end recording]

Equatorial Guinea

Two Opposition Party Members Said Arrested

AB1202123092 London BBC World Service in English
0630 GMT 11 Feb 92

[From the "Network Africa" program hosted by Rick Wells]

[Text] Equatorial Guinea is just one of the many countries in Africa presently moving toward a multiparty system but in common with many of them, the authorities there are still uneasy about those who actually express any ideas contrary to theirs, and since Sunday [9 February], two opposition figures have been arrested. Well, Anthony Goldman of the BBC is currently in Malabo, the capital, and he witnessed one of the arrests on Sunday. Earlier this morning, I spoke to him on the line and asked him if he had seen what actually happened.

[Begin recording] [Goldman] I was going off to dinner actually, and I heard a noise in the street and I...[changes thought] It sounded like a fight and that seemed quite interesting, because in the week or so that I have been here, I have never heard any fight or anything like that in the streets; it is a very quiet place. So I went down to have a look and, in fact, what I saw was several security people beating a young man up on the street. I learned afterwards that the head of the security people, who is (Chiko Koweta), he is the son-in-law of the president and quite high up in the security authorities, and that the man they were beating is a 27-year-old teacher called (Placido Mico Obogo), who is quite a senior figure in an underground opposition movement called the Convergence for Social Democracy, CTSD, in Spanish.

[Wells] But, he was just one of two people who have been arrested recently. Who is the other one?

[Goldman] Well, I understand the second man to be arrested was a man called (Jose Doro Soro). He is a little bit older but also an intellectual, an economist by training, and he was picked up yesterday afternoon, I understand. He is still the man of the opposition. The opposition is afraid now that (Placido Mico Obogo) has so much information about the secrets of the Convergence for Social Democracy, that several of the leaders are now under threat, and several of them have gone into hiding.

[Wells] What about....[changes thought] Have people reacted to this?

[Goldman] Well, there has been nothing at all on state television or radio. There are no newspapers in Equatorial Guinea so, officially, there is no news at all about it. However, Malabo itself, the capital where these events have taken place, is a tiny little town and rumors spread like wildfire here, and many people have heard something. People are somewhat afraid and in this kind of atmosphere, certainly, the news is around and is about. There is something of a clampdown taking place. [end recording]

Zaire

Decree Signed on 'Minor Cabinet Reshuffle'

AB1202122092 Kinshasa Voix du Zaire in French
0500 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Excerpt] At the proposal of the prime minister, the head of state has signed a decree on a minor Cabinet reshuffle. First, the Ministry of National Solidarity and Family becomes part of the Ministry of Public Health. The minister and secretaries of state for national solidarity and family are no longer members of the government team.

Next, the Ministry of Institutional Reforms becomes part of the Ministry of Justice. The minister of institutional reforms is no longer a member of the broad national union government team. The Department of Industry is now covered [words indistinct] by the Ministry of Economy and Trade.

A reform within the Ministry of State Investment and Privatization was also reported. A decree modifies and complements this reform [words indistinct] No. 89-033 of (230) January 1989 creating the Higher Treasury Council. There is also the appointment of the chairman and deputy chairman of the Higher Treasury Council. Appointments were also made in certain state enterprises, as mentioned in the headlines. The General Quarries and Mines Company board of directors was also dissolved. [passage omitted]

Ethiopia

Report on Israeli Delegation's Visit to Eritrea

PM1202111192 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 9 Feb 92 p1

[Sayyid Ahmad Khalifah report: "Israeli Delegation in Eritrea"]

[Text] Jeddah—The Israeli Government is trying to normalize relations with Isaisa Afewerki's provisional government in Eritrea in anticipation of the result of the proposed self-determination referendum in that region, previously part of Ethiopia. The result is expected to be in favor of full independence from Ethiopia.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that an Israeli delegation, including some military and technical personnel, visited Asmera this week. That was the first such visit since the downfall of Mengistu's regime. Afewerki, prime minister of the provisional government, was at the head of the welcoming officials.

According to Eritrean sources, the Israeli delegation, which was led by the Israeli ambassador in Addis Ababa, offered Afewerki's government aid and relief supplies, but the other aim of the visit was to recover some Israeli properties of security importance seized by Afewerki's forces after they occupied Eritrea.

Mosad [Israeli intelligence organization] was able to move these properties out of Addis Ababa before the Mengistu regime collapsed.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the government of Addis Ababa played the part of mediator in paving the way for the Israeli delegation's visit to Eritrea and for the normalization of Israeli-Eritrean relations.

Kenya

Moi Cited on Opposition Tactics; Economy

EA1202193092 Nairobi Kenya Broadcasting
Corporation Network in English 1300 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Excerpts] His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi today said that the government will not hesitate to take legal action against any member of the opposition who showed disrespect for the laws of his country. The president noted that of late some of the opposition members had resorted to abusing personalities and even their motherland. He said joining the opposition was not an immunity as the laws of the land applied to all indiscriminately. The president disclosed that some of the defectors to the opposition had done so because of presumed economic gains and not out of faith in those parties. He, however, said the ruling party, KANU [Kenyan African National Union], was ready to welcome back the defectors.

President Moi said this at Kwale Baraza [Public Meeting] Park, where he conducted a fund raising

meeting in aid of all schools in Kwale district [located along the coast]. A total of 15,628,234.85 shillings was raised. President Moi gave 260,000 shillings.

President Moi cautioned Kenyans to be wary of the opposition with their empty promises whose main aim was to lure them into joining their parties. He said it was absurd for the opposition to promise wananchi [citizens] more job opportunities if they come to power. He reiterated that it will be impossible to create more job opportunities in an unstable environment as no foreigner will be willing to invest. [passage omitted]

The president further said that KANU was the only political party in the country that guaranteed peace and stability and asked wananchi to remain firmly united in their support. He said Kenya under KANU had made tremendous developments and cautioned that unless Kenyans remained united, all their achievements could be destroyed overnight. President Moi noted that the harambee [self-help] spirit had greatly contributed to the development of this nation and expressed fears that with the advent of multiparty politics, that spirit would be threatened.

Regarding Ramisi sugar factory, President Moi announced that the government would take it over and pay outstanding dues to sugarcane farmers. He added that the government would also expand the factory in a bid to create more job opportunities. [passage omitted]

President Moi said that peace was vital for development in any country and noted that it was the reason Kenya had enjoyed a fast rate of development since independence.

President Moi urged the youth not to be misled by proponents of the emerging political parties who, he noted, preached tribalism. President Moi noted that tribalism had ruined many African countries and cited the examples of tribal wars in some of our neighboring countries. He urged the students to be patriotic and to be ready to serve the nation in whatever capacity and in any party of the country.

Radio Commentary on FORD Call For Strike

EA1202171592 Nairobi Kenya Broadcasting
Corporation Network in English 1600 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] The main resolution to come out of the steering committee meeting held by the Forum for the Restoration of Democracy, FORD, 10 days ago here in Nairobi, was a threat to call a nationwide strike on the second of next month unless all individuals whom the party calls political prisoners were released by that date. FORD spokesmen have reiterated this strike threat on several other platforms since, notably during the FORD rally held in Kikuyu town, Kiambu District, on the first of this month.

Ample evidence has also come to light that FORD has been trying to woo matatu [public minibus] and bus owners and operators to lend their support to the threatened strike. Immediate reaction from most of the organizations representing the very individuals FORD was calling to join in the strike was distinctively [as heard] negative.

Typical examples of these reactions were those of the Central Organization of Trade Unions, COTU, the Kenya National Union of Teachers, KNUT, and the Transport Association of Kenya, TAKE. In his reaction the COTU secretary general Mr. Joseph Mugala, pointed out that no political party had any right whatsoever to call a workers strike. Vowing not to allow FORD to hijack the country's labor movement, Mr. Mugala said strikes can only be called in pursuance of trade union objectives and politics was not one of these. He heeded the call for the threatened strike and FORD was not going to make good such losses. [sentence as heard]

The KNUT secretary general, Mr. Ambrose Adongo, fully concurred with his COTU counterpart adding that his organization was not going to defend any teacher who would get into trouble for heeding the threatened strike call. He pointed out that for teacher strikes to be legal, KNUT as the representative trade union, must comply with all the laid-down procedures, including the declaration of a specific trade dispute and giving of a 21 days strike notice to the Ministry of Labor.

In their turn, officials of the Transport Association of Kenya, including the chairman, Mr. James Kinyanjui, have repeatedly condemned the attempts to enlist them in the threatened strike, pointing out that the matatu and bus operators were private businesses mostly run on loans whose repayment deadlines have to be met. The officials have even gone to the extent of calling on their members and all those employed in the sector to report to the police anyone trying to incite them into joining in the threatened strike.

The government stand as spelled out in yesterday's statement by the minister for labor, Mr. Philip Masinde, is in full agreement with these three representative views from COTU, KNUT, and the Transport Association. This is that for any strike to remain legal. The grievd [as heard] individuals must follow the laid-down procedures under the trade dispute act, otherwise they would be laying themselves open to the consequences of an illegal act. Principal among these conditions is that there exists a specific and genuine trade dispute. This is the one essential element that is clearly lacking in the general strike FORD is threatening to call next month.

SDP Seeks Farmers' Support, Offers Programs

EA1202191892 Nairobi KTN Television in English
1800 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Excerpt] The Social Democratic Party [SDP] today held its first interim committee meeting where it came up with a plan of action to motivate the Kenyan farmer.

Addressing members of the press, the interim chairman, Johnstone Makau, said the agricultural and cooperative sectors played a major role in the social economic development of the country. He said membership cards will be ready as soon as the party begins to make meet-the-people tours throughout the country. Makau added that no enticement will be used to get people into the party, rather it will be voluntarily done.

[Begin Makau recording] We are concerned about the [word indistinct] poverty in this country. And that is why we feel that the farmer has to be given incentives to be able to produce and market their products. We have addressed ourselves to how to curb exploitation and frustration of the farmers through marketing boards and cooperative societies.

SDP's incentives to farmers include good pricing of food commodities, marketing techniques, evaluation of the input costs such as fertilizers, efficient distribution channels, improved distribution of [word indistinct] and above all, eradication of corruption and mismanagement in the cooperatives who market farmers produce. SDP is the people's party, and a farmer will be the biggest beneficiary of SDP programs. Hence all the farmers should join the party that cares for them, and that is SDP, which is the farmer's choice. [end recording]

Democratic Party To Hold 'First' Rally 15 Feb

EA1202203092 Nairobi KTN Television in English
1800 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Text] The Democratic Party [DP] has been granted permission to hold its first rally at Uhuru Park, Nairobi, this Saturday [15 February].

A DP spokesman said some of the issues to be discussed at the rally include immediate, medium-, and long-term party programs. The meeting will also discuss economic issues.

DP's Keen Cited on 'Bribe' Money Being Printed

EA1202202592 Nairobi KTN Television in English
0500 GMT 12 Feb 92

[From the press review]

[Text] Paper money is being printed in large quantities and used to bribe some politicians, the interim secretary general of the Democratic Party, John Keen, claimed yesterday. The allegation appears under THE STANDARD banner headlines. It is also found in the KENYA TIMES and the DAILY NATION.

Somalia

'Heavy Fighting' Reported in Mogadishu

AB1302104092 Paris AFP in English 0957 GMT
13 Feb 92

[Text] Nairobi, Feb 13 (AFP)—Heavy fighting erupted in the Somali capital Mogadishu as U.N.-sponsored talks

aimed at ending three months of savage clan warfare continued in New York, relief officials said here Thursday. The officials, in contact with Mogadishu by satellite telephone, said fighting had intensified Wednesday afternoon.

They said 16 people had been reported killed and 142 wounded in only two hours, despite a call for an immediate cease-fire by U.N. Secretary-General Butrus Butrus Ghali, the Arab League, the Organisation of African Unity and the Islamic Conference.

Meanwhile three-member delegations from the two warring factions were due to meet separately with the U.N. chief in New York on Thursday, and might later hold their first face-to-face talks.

Butrus Ghali, an Egyptian who is the first African to hold the post of U.N. secretary-general, is determined to end the carnage in Somalia, an East African country he is familiar with.

More than 20,000 people have been killed and wounded since a long-standing rivalry between interim President Ali Mahdi Mohamed and General Mohamed Farah Aidid erupted into a three-day bloodbath in September. A truce was agreed, but lasted only a month.

Ali Mahdi and Aidid lead opposing factions of the large Haawiye clan and the United Somali Congress which overthrew President Mohamed Siad Barre more than a year ago.

Relief Flights Said Suspended

AB1302153592 Paris AFP in English 1520 GMT
13 Feb 92

[Text] Nairobi, Feb 13 (AFP)—Aid organisations flying food and medical supplies to Somalia's war-torn capital said flights had been suspended to northern Mogadishu on Thursday but were continuing to the main airport in the south.

Heavy fighting erupted in Mogadishu as U.N.-brokered talks aimed at ending three months of savage clan warfare continued in New York.

Relief officials, in contact with Mogadishu by satellite telephone said fighting had intensified Wednesday afternoon. According to Somali sources, the forces of General Mohamed Farah Aidid, opposing those of interim President Ali Mahdi Mohamed, reportedly launched a "massive attack" on an airstrip used by Ali Mahdi 10 kilometres (six miles) north of Mogadishu.

They said Ali Mahdi had apparently responded by shelling Aidid's territory in southern Mogadishu from his stronghold in the north.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said it had cancelled a flight Thursday to the airstrip in the north, which serves Ali Mahdi's sector, but was still flying to the main civilian airport in the south near Aidid's territory.

In Geneva, the ICRC said it had mobilized five boats to distribute 6,000 tons of food to the most severely affected regions in Somalia's civil war.

In a communique, it said the first boat had arrived January 10 in Kismaayo and was being unloaded. Two boats were expected over the next few days to reach the ports of Hobyo and El Dere, north of Mogadishu. Two others will leave Mombasa, Kenya, next week for Merca and Brava, south of the Somali capital.

The ICRC, whose director of operations Jean de Courten visited Somalia from last Saturday [8 February] to Monday [10 February], said it was taking medical equipment daily by plane to points on the front which divides Mogadishu. It said the hospital of Kaysannay, in the north of the capital, was operating and had a Dutch surgical team.

Tanzania

Paper Urges Continued Sanctions Against RSA

EA1202171592 Dar es Salaam Radio Tanzania
External Service in English 0400 GMT 12 Feb 92

[From the press review]

[Text] On its part, the English-language daily the DAILY NEWS calls on the international community, including Tanzania, to increase pressure on the apartheid regime of South Africa to speed up the dismantling of the hated apartheid policy. It says last Monday's [10 February] announcement by the government that Tanzania would very soon partly lift some sanctions against the apartheid regime of South Africa may have caught many people unaware. The DAILY NEWS says some people may be wondering why the move comes so soon, especially when it is clear that a lot remains to be done to remove apartheid.

The paper says indeed Tanzania has been one of the (?staunchest) supporters of sanctions since they were introduced by the international community over three decades ago. It adds that the country has all along been urging the international community to maintain the sanctions until change in South Africa is inevitable and apartheid dismantled. [sentence as heard]

De Klerk Promises Drought Relief to Farmers

MB1002202592 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network
in Afrikaans 1800 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] The government is to take steps to assist victims of the drought.

On arrival at the D.F. Malan Airport the state president, Mr. F.W. de Klerk, extended his sympathy to people suffering from the effects of the drought. He said the drought is reaching crisis proportions. Farmers who were full of hope a few weeks ago say that the weekend's heat has destroyed the crops. Up to 90 percent of the maize and other crops in parts of the Orange Free State have been destroyed, even if it rains within the next few days. Mr. Japie Gouws of the Orange Free State Agricultural Union says large parts of the province will not produce any summer grain.

Thousands of hectares of maize have dried and no crops have been cultivated. The minister of agriculture and agricultural development says that problems in agriculture because of the drought are far worse than meets the eye as the land is still green and the maize crops are still standing. Dr. Kraai van Niekerk visited the summer crop areas of the Orange Free State.

He said that it is important for stud herds to be protected so that genetic material would not be lost. Dr. van Niekerk added that negotiations with creditors would be held to determine what the role of the state should be in finding solutions to the problems. We hope to have visual material of the minister's visit to the summer crop areas later in the program.

[Begin De Klerk recording] I sincerely sympathize with all involved in agriculture who have been dealt a severe blow by the unending drought, which has reached crisis proportions following drought over a number of years in which there were few good seasons. The government will do everything possible to ensure that this crisis is handled in such a manner that the interest of agriculture and everyone involved in this sector, will be well looked after. [end recording]

Drought Said 'To Further' Right Wing Cause

MB1002102992 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0921 GMT 10 Feb 92

[By Norman Patterton]

Pretoria Feb 10 SAPA—The drought gripping South Africa was the best thing that could have happened to further the rightwing cause, according to farmers interviewed at the weekend.

One Northern Transvaal farmer who said he was staring bankruptcy in the face said: "This is a fair drought. It will affect everyone".

He warned that the government and city-dwellers did not truly comprehend the extent of the situation.

"There are 80,000 farmers. By this time next year there may be less than half left."

He said farmers in his district had calculated they would reap a one per cent harvest. Many farmers would go under and there would be food shortages and steep food price rises in the cities.

The farmer said he, like many others, was cash-strapped and immersed in debt, and would be unable to feed his family in a few months. His crops were on the brink of complete failure.

This situation, and the fact that no work could be found in the cities, was radicalising farmers.

They were politically organised and prepared to act.

The farmer added that a self-defence network was coordinated nationally, with information and instructions reaching even Cape farmers. Those participating believed in face-to-face meetings, as they feared their telephones were being tapped by the state.

Bankrupted farmers were prepared to take drastic measures.

It is difficult to gauge how serious they are when farmers look you squarely in the eye and talk about a coup. They are also reluctant to discuss specific plans.

One of them expressed his bitterness about former black "terrorists" captured by one farming community now openly and legally drilling black rural youths in that same community in "self-defence" techniques.

There is also the by now familiar threats of taking "so many blacks with me when I go". A respectful figure is 1,000.

The farmers say the rural rightwingers constitute a much greater and more committed force than the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging [Afrikaner Resistance Movement].

"The dangerous guy is the one who does not go around boasting but who is there when you need him."

Farmers say they can see no sense in supplying markets when it is only a matter of time before their cash-flow dries up.

"The feeling is: Why don't we pull the plug now?"

Said one farmer: "Some years ago we heard beeps on the radio followed by the news that Kennedy had been assassinated. Then we heard beeps and it was Verwoerd. We're keeping our ears trained for the next beeps."

The farming community has been following the Zevenfontein informal settler issue with glee on television news.

"The ward voted nationalist but was galvanised into action once they personally experienced the implications of Nat [National Party] rule."

Growing Rural Depopulation*MB1002154192 Umtata Capital Radio in English
1400 GMT 10 Feb 92*

[Text] Natal farmers say the present drought is the worst this century. Agricultural Department Secretary Louis Kruger says crop losses of nearly 10 million rand can be expected in parts of northern Natal and kwaZulu. More than 40 northern Natal farmers have lost their farms in the last year and a half and this figure can be expected to rise sharply. As John Matham reports, this growing depopulation of the platteland [rural area] is becoming a nationwide crisis.

[Begin Matham recording] South African Agricultural Union economist Koos du Toit says catastrophic consequences will follow the large-scale abandoning of farms made into wastelands by drought. First National Bank's agricultural adviser Frans Venter says the decline in farmers' fortunes have the knock-on effect. He says the industries which service the farmer also move on and this contributes to the slow strangulation of the platteland economy. Venter says if the drought doesn't break, poor rural conditions could force a mass move to already overstrained cities.

Du Toit believes the state should subsidize the nearly bankrupt farmer to stay on the land. He says in the long run this will be cheaper than accommodating the flow of farmers and their dependents into the city.

ANC Constitutional Proposals Reported*MB1102173592 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1641 GMT 11 Feb 92*

[By David Greybe]

[Text] Johannesburg Feb 11 SAPA—The ANC's [African National Congress] constitutional principles were released on Tuesday [11 February], proposing a united, multi-party state in which the diversity of peoples' languages, cultures and religions "shall be acknowledged". An ANC delegation to Codesa [Convention for a Democratic South Africa], headed by its secretary-general Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, presented the document to a meeting of Working Group Two, on constitutional matters. SAPA exclusively obtained a copy of the ANC proposals when the working group held its second meeting on Tuesday at the World Trade Centre outside Johannesburg.

"There will be a multi-party democracy with the right to form and join political parties and with regular elections on the basis of universal adult suffrage on a common voters roll," the ANC document said. "Each vote shall be of equal value and in general the basic electoral system shall be that of proportional representation. There shall be a separation of power with appropriate checks and balances."

The ANC said the constitution should also allow for the application of affirmative action "in order to help redress the racial and gender imbalances created by past discrimination".

"Within the context of an undivided South Africa, government will function at national, regional and local levels; the appropriate division and de-centralisation shall be such as to encourage non-racial, democratic participation and administration at all levels.

"The diversity of languages, cultures and religions of the people of South Africa shall be acknowledged," the ANC paper said. "All shall enjoy universally accepted human rights, freedoms and civil liberties including freedom of religion, speech and assembly protected by an entrenched and justiciable bill of rights and a legal system that guarantees equality of all before the law.

"South Africa will be a united, democratic, non-racial and non-sexist state in which sovereign authority is exercised over the whole of its territory," the ANC proposed.

"The constitution will be the supreme law and will be guarded over by an independent, non-racial, non-sexist and impartial judiciary."

SACP Proposals on New Constitution Reported*MB1102180292 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1702 GMT 11 Feb 92*

[By David Greybe]

[Text] Johannesburg Feb 11 SAPA—The SA [South African] Communist Party [SACP] on Tuesday [11 February] unveiled its proposals for a new constitution, and said it supported a multi-party system based on proportional representation with entrenched checks and balances. Regions would not have the right to secede or to separate from a united South Africa, and there would be a clear delineation of power between the legislative, executive and judiciary, the SACP said in its position paper.

The SACP released the document—on the terms of reference for Working Group Two, on constitutional matters—behind closed doors at Codesa [Convention for a Democratic South Africa] on Tuesday [11 February]. SAPA exclusively obtained a copy of the SACP position paper.

The future constitution should not prescribe or delimit the balance between private and state involvement in economic activity, the SACP said. Codesa therefore should not prescribe economic constitutional provisions which would pre-empt a future parliament from continuing with or departing from the key elements of the existing economic system.

The SACP said it stood for an undivided, multi-party country, and a constitution which entrenched "appropriate" checks and balances. It also called for the entrenched protection of cultural, language and religious rights of every individual.

The SACP said it accepted that provisions had to be made for a role for traditional leaders.

All electoral processes under a new constitution had to be based on the principle of proportional representation, and the SACP said it supported the devolution and/or delegation of defined powers to regional political/administrative entities. In general, regional entities had to be delimited primarily according to geographic and economic considerations, the SACP said.

"The powers of these entities and the degree of autonomy shall be entrenched in the constitution requiring a special majority both in relation to the enactment of such powers and any amendments thereof.

"The regional entities shall not, as entities, elect or appoint representatives to the central legislative structure.

"Alternatively, if a regionally connected second chamber is decided upon, it shall be made up predominantly of representatives elected from the regions on the basis of proportional representation." Elections of regional entities had to be governed by the principle of proportional representation based on universal franchise.

On the issue of affirmative action, the SACP said: "No constitutional provision shall prevent a future parliament from addressing the process of rectifying racial discrimination, racial injustices and the racial imbalance of wealth through affirmative action. The same applies to gender questions."

There was no need for Codesa to prescribe the entrenchment or institutionalisation of political power sharing—enforced coalitions—between political parties as a principle to be enshrined in a future constitution, the SACP paper said.

The protection of political minorities would be sufficiently addressed by:

- "A system of proportional representation which will guarantee representation to political minorities who obtain a minimum percentage of votes;
- "By the requirement of special majorities to adopt or amend a justiciable constitution and bill of rights—including provisions relating to the powers of regional entities; (and)
- "The issue of political power sharing in any transitional executive structures leading up to the adoption of the future constitution remains negotiable."

A bill of rights should provide judicial remedies to individuals against other individuals or groups, especially in the sphere of preventing the perpetuation of "private apartheid" and the practice of gender discrimination. It should

also not place any constitutional restrictions on the powers of the legislature to address racial and gender discrimination in any area of social life.

As for the role of traditional leaders, the SACP said that such a role had to be guided by functions relating to their traditional jurisdiction, taking into account new socio-economic realities and that those functions which they exercised historically relate only to local matters in specific traditional areas. "There shall be no special representation of traditional leaders in the central legislative."

Other constitutional positions outlined in the SACP position paper were:

- A constitution as the supreme law with a justiciable bill of human rights;
- An independent non-racial, non-sexist judiciary; and,
- The elimination of all discrimination based on colour and gender.

Inkatha's Buthelezi Comments on 'Danger' to Codesa

MB1102161792 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1415 GMT 11 Feb 92

[SAPA PR Wire Service issued by Inkatha Freedom Party]

[Text] Durban—Codesa [Convention for a Democratic South Africa] stands in the dire danger of being destroyed by those who want to make it a testing ground of party political strength.

Speaking in San Francisco yesterday (11th) [as received], IFP [Inkatha Freedom Party] President and kwaZulu Chief Minister Dr Mangosuthu Buthelezi said Codesa should remain a forum in which political parties meet to discuss how best to get negotiations off the ground and what negotiation structures and processes should be developed. Instead of which Codesa is itself becoming a negotiating forum.

"There is also the danger of both the ANC [African National Congress] and the National Party [NP] conniving with each other against the other members of Codesa to ensure that the world continues to receive images of the South African Government and the ANC working together. Both the government and the ANC need that image to underpin their appeals for international help".

"Quite frankly there are times when it is so clearly evident that the ANC and the government are conniving behind the scenes and attempting to use Codesa to rubber stamp the decisions they make in private and in secret, that I fear for the future".

The IFP leader also referred to future problems between the two. "I do not know how much further down the road of mutual co-operation the ANC and the South African Government [SAG] must travel before it is disadvantageous but it cannot be that far".

Moreover, after the 1994 election, the NP must cease to be the governing party. "Whatever it achieves at the polls it will thus become a minority white party among other white parties. We are therefore faced with the spectacle of the ANC planning and conniving with the South African Government to produce a set of circumstances in which only the ANC will be left with any advantages".

Dr Buthelezi added that Codesa should not be turned into an ANC/SAG rubber stamp. "We certainly hope however, that in the process, the emerging tendency of the South African Government to dump me and the IFP in favour of the politics of connivance with the ANC can be stopped in time".

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Codesa Subgroup Discusses Political Prisoners

*MB1102180692 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1721 GMT 11 Feb 92*

[By David Greybe]

[Text] Johannesburg Feb 11 SAPA—A Codesa [Convention for a Democratic South Africa] subgroup reached "sufficient consensus" on Tuesday [11 February] about political prisoners, according to delegates SAPA spoke to. Codesa's Working Group One, which has three subgroups, has been mandated to tackle the issue of free political participation and the role of the international community.

Subgroup one met for the first time on Tuesday at the Codesa headquarters at the World Trade Centre outside Johannesburg, and dealt with the issue of political prisoners. Delegates said there had been "sufficient consensus"—as stipulated in Codesa's terms of reference—at the meeting to move away from bilateral agreements—such as between the ANC [African National Congress] and government—on the issue of political prisoners.

It was felt instead that the issue should be decided within a much broader framework, like the Convention for a Democratic South Africa. A delegate noted, however, that the minister of justice Mr Kobie Coetsee, a member of the government delegation to Working Group One, had not attended meetings on Monday and Tuesday. He said the working group was told that Mr Coetsee was ill. According to the delegate, further progress within the subgroup could be held up if Mr Coetsee, a key government minister, was unable to attend meetings.

Working Group One is scheduled to meet again next Monday.

Government Denies 'Conniving' With ANC at Codesa

*MB1202123792 Umtata Capital Radio in English
1100 GMT 12 Feb 92*

[Text] The government has moved to quash speculation that an all embracing agreement between all parties at Codesa [Convention for a Democratic South Africa] is imminent. Patric Cull reports:

[Cull] The deputy constitution² development minister, Dr. Tertius Delpot, said this morning that government was heartened by the rate of progress, and the way that the parties appeared to be drawing closer together. But he warned debate on the key issues is yet to begin, and speculation that an all-embracing agreement was imminent was premature.

Delpot also reacted to a statement by Chief Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi yesterday, in which he stated that there were occasions when it was clear the ANC [African National Congress] and the government were conniving at Codesa. Denying that there was any conniving between the government and the ANC, Delpot said government held bilateral talks with several parties, including the ANC, in order to facilitate agreement on important issues at Codesa.

ANC Working Committee Said in 'Secret' Meeting

*MB1302093892 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0837 GMT 13 Feb 92*

[By David Greybe]

[Text] Johannesburg Feb 13 SAPA—The African National Congress [ANC] has declined to confirm or deny that its 26-member National Working Committee [NWC] began a three-day meeting at a secret location outside Johannesburg on Wednesday.

However, sources within the ANC and SA [South African] Communist Party [SACP] had told SAPA earlier that the ANC's top leadership, including ANC President Nelson Mandela and SACP National Chairman Joe Slovo, were at the NWC meeting.

An NEC [National Executive Committee] spokesman on Thursday declined to confirm that the meeting was taking place, or the contents of its agenda.

Mr Mandela recently returned from an overseas trip, and the first full round of detailed talks at Codesa [Convention for a Democratic South Africa] ended on Tuesday.

The NWC is made up of 20 elected members and the ANC's six top leaders, including Mr Mandela, National Chairman Oliver Tambo, and Secretary-General Cyril Ramaphosa.

CP: By-Election Will Determine White Referendum

MB1302072192 Johannesburg South African Broadcasting Corporation Network in English 0500 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] The deputy leader of the Conservative Party [CP], Dr. Ferdie Hartzenberg, says the Potchefstroom by-election will be the most important political event in South Africa this century.

Winding up the CP's campaign in the town last night, Dr. Hartzenberg said if Potchefstroom fell to the CP, it would mean that the government and the National Party [NP] would lose a referendum among white voters. He said this would lead to the demise of Codesa [Convention for a Democratic South Africa].

He said the resurgence of nationalism, particularly among the black peoples, would also lead to the failure of Codesa. He said black states participating in Codesa were becoming increasingly aware that under a new dispensation they stood to lose their fatherlands, and power bases.

CP Unveils 'Map' of White 'Homeland'

MB1302085392 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network in English 0500 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] As the crucial Potchefstroom parliamentary by-election draws closer, the Conservative Party [CP] has wound up its campaign by unveiling what its political opponents have been baying for—a map of a white South African homeland.

Addressing a meeting in the Potchefstroom town hall last night, CP Deputy Leader Ferdie Hartzenberg displayed what was a 1975 report of the Select Committee on Bantu Affairs. It gave blacks their own homelands, with the bulk of the country under white control. Dr. Hartzenberg said the map, compiled in 1975, showed clearly which areas were allocated to white control.

[Begin Hartzenberg video recording in Afrikaans] When you reach this point on the map, you have reached the end of Ciskei, and you then reenter white South Africa. You then travel further, and when you reach this point, you have come to the end of white territory, and enter Transkei. Then, at this point, you come to the end of Transkei. So this, then, is white South Africa, and that is Transkei, and that is Ciskei. In 1977, all these gentlemen agreed that these two areas should become independent states. [end recording]

Dr. Hartzenberg went on to say that black states participating in Codesa [Convention for a Democratic South Africa] were becoming increasingly aware that under a new dispensation they stood to lose their fatherlands and power bases. He said a resurgence of nationalism among black people could lead to the failure of Codesa.

Survey Shows Mandela Continues To Gain Support

MB1202165492 Johannesburg Radio RSA in English 1100 GMT 12 Feb 92

[From the "Africa South" program]

[Text] African National Congress [ANC] President Nelson Mandela is gaining ever greater support among South Africans—according to an opinion survey done by the Pretoria-based Human Sciences Research Council [HSRC]. Ossie Gibson has more:

[Begin recording] [Gibson] The most significant trend in the HSRC survey, which is updated on a quarterly basis amongst 2,000 respondents of all races, is that ANC President Nelson Mandela continues to gain support as more blacks begin to feel free to express themselves politically.

Support for President de Klerk and the National Party [NP] is significantly higher amongst so-called coloreds and Indians and lastly confined to older black people with noticeable variations in accord with the age groups, levels of education, and income of those questioned. It was pointed out that while support for the Inkatha Freedom Party [IFP] is polled at a very low 3 percent, the survey does not include deep rural areas, such as kwa-Zulu and the far northern Transvaal where there is very strong support for parties such as the IFP, and for movements such as the Zionist Church.

Amongst whites, says Dr. Johan Mouton, of the HSRC, there's a clear divide between the supporters of the NP and the Conservative Party [CP], but with many [word indistinct] which could affect this.

[Mouton] On one hand, one is finding quite clearly a polarization between, you know, NP supporters staying fairly stable at around 50 percent of the whites. On the other hand you have the CP support which is in the region of about 30 [figure as heard] percent. [end recording]

ANC: HSRC 'Underplaying' Support

MB1302094692 Johannesburg SABA in English 0859 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] Cape Town Feb 13 SABA—The African National Congress [ANC] in the western Cape has accused the Human Sciences Research Council [HSRC] of trying to overplay government support while underplaying support for the ANC.

Responding to a recent HSRC survey which showed that the National Party enjoyed substantial support among the coloured people, the ANC said the HSRC's findings were regularly inconsistent with the findings of surveys by other independent research agencies.

ANC Regional Publicity Secretary Mziwonke Jacobs charged the HSRC had "a long history of discredited polls".

Until recently, he said, the HSRC had conducted polls by telephone despite the fact that most South Africans did not have telephones.

Mr Jacobs said the latest survey, conducted among 2,000 South Africans of all races on a personal interview basis, distorted ANC support by stating the movement would receive only 37 per cent of the total vote while simultaneously acknowledging that 67 per cent of the black population alone would vote for the ANC.

He said the ANC also believed there was a substantial "lie factor" in public responses to surveys conducted by government organisations.

"The fact that more than a quarter of the coloured people surveyed chose not to answer questions is a strong indication of their lack of trust," he said.

Mr Jacobs said the ANC was first to admit that its support among the coloured community had not grown as fast as expected, but added the issue had been addressed at the movement's regional conference last year and strategies had been developed to remedy the situation.

CP: Survey 'Scientific Balderdash'

*MB1202171292 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1634 GMT 12 Feb 92*

[Text] Johannesburg Feb 12 SAPA—The recent Human Sciences Research Council's [HSRC] opinion poll testing support for political leaders in South Africa is "scientific balderdash", Conservative Party [CP] member of the President's Council, Mr Clive Derby-Lewis, said on Wednesday [12 February]. According to the poll 51 per cent of the white population supported the state president, Mr F W de Klerk, while only 13 per cent supported Conservative Party leader Dr Andries Treurnicht.

In a statement Mr Derby-Lewis said the HSRC poll made a mockery of so-called scientific surveying. "It is contradictory. It says that only 15 per cent of whites in South Africa believe the so-called new South Africa would be better for them, and then states that 51 per cent of whites support the man who is foisting this new South Africa upon them."

Mr Derby-Lewis also claimed that the poll was done in September/October last year which was before the Conference [as received] for a Democratic South Africa [Codesa] had exposed the government's intentions to hand over power to the ANC [African National Congress] via an interim government. There has been a marked change in attitude since Codesa and this was reflected in the Virginia by-election result."

According to Mr Derby-Lewis it was unscientific to interview only 390 whites out of a population of five million. The interviewees also resided in metropolitan areas who tended to support liberal political parties, he said. "If the rural areas are included in the report, the figures would be much lower. Newspaper headlines

about "Nats [appellation for members of the National Party—NP] tipped to win white polls are simply untrue. De Klerk is clearly due for a massive thrashing in either an election or a referendum," Mr Derby-Lewis claimed.

The WASHINGTON TIMES published the result of a secret NP-Commissioned poll as far back as March 1990 which said that the CP was supported by more than 50 per cent of whites, he said.

CP: HSRC Regime 'Propaganda Front'

*MB1302142092 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1316 GMT 13 Feb 92*

[Text] Pretoria Feb 11 SAPA—The Human Sciences Research Council [HSRC] was being used to an increasing extent as a propaganda front for the government, Conservative Party [CP] MP for Pretoria West Mr J. Chiole said on Thursday.

In a statement released on behalf of the National Engineering and Science Council, Mr Chiole said the CP's view was supported by the results of the HSRC's latest opinion poll which found that 20.22 percent of whites supported the CP and that 30 percent of whites would probably support the CP in a referendum or general election.

"The real fact is that the CP attracted more than 30 percent of the votes cast in the 1989 general election and there was a huge swing to the right after the unbanning of the ANC [African National Congress]."

Mr Chiole said serious consideration should be given to the merit of the continued existence of this section of the HSRC. Money budgeted for it could be cancelled and channelled into projects which could stimulate economic growth.

Bophuthatswana's Mangope, ANC's Mandela To Meet

*MB1202163692 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1619 GMT 12 Feb 92*

[Text] Mmabatho Feb 12 SAPA—Bophuthatswana President Lucas Mangope will meet African National Congress [ANC] President Nelson Mandela on February 27 "to resolve differences" between Bophuthatswana and the ANC, Mr Mangope said on Tuesday [11 February].

Speaking to Israeli media representatives in Mmabatho, Mr Mangope said Bophuthatswana would continue to defend itself against the ANC if the ANC attempted to carry out its threats to make his country ungovernable, "but in fairness I must add we hope to resolve our differences".

He said Bophuthatswana was happy to use the platform provided by the Congress for a Democratic South Africa (Codesa) to explain its position to the world, and he hoped Bophuthatswana would retain its independence after Codesa.

Foreign Affairs Official on Regional Trade

*MB1202054892 Johannesburg Radio RSA in English
1100 GMT 10 Feb 92*

[Interview with Derek Auret, South African Department of Foreign Affairs deputy director, by Steven Lang from the "Africa South" program—place, date not given; recorded]

[Text] [Auret] We have recognized the international trend in economic interaction, which is perhaps best demonstrated by the development of the so-called Europe 1992 concept. The basis of that being the European Economic Community, where it appears to us that, increasingly, trade between countries will be handled not so much on a bilateral basis as the multinational basis. We think it makes great sense for us, specifically in southern Africa, also to construct an economic unit of some sort to, in future, interact with the other economic units such as are developing in the Far East and also in the Americas. The aim of that would be simply to increase the competitiveness of countries who on their own might not be as able to compete with these larger economic units as a combined effort of countries of a specific regional being.

You are correct, both the president and the foreign minister have identified four areas within the African Continent where it appears to us such economic units are capable of creation. We, naturally, are extremely interested in the southern sub-continent where we are at home, where we already interact on a very determined level with our neighbors, as far as trade et cetera is concerned, and we think that we in southern Africa could be one of these economic units.

The other areas which have been identified, obviously, have been the west, an area with Nigeria as its center. In the north, Egypt and Kenya, forming a central or east African basis.

Naturally, the trade between these economic units will also increasingly become important in terms of increasing and developing inter-African trade. So it seems to us that for the future the economic wellbeing of these various regions could be very highly dependent on the coming together, as is were, of countries, in order to maximize their export potential, and to be more competitive as a group [words indistinct].

[Lang] Referring to southern Africa, there is a debate going on at the moment as to whether the southern Africa group should come under the auspices of SADCC [Southern African Development Coordination Conference] or the Preferential Trade Area, [PTA] or alternatively the South African Customs Union. What are your feelings on this issue?

[Auret] Yes indeed, there is a very active debate as we saw last week with the PTA meeting in Lusaka and also the SADCC meeting which was concurrently held in Maputo. There has been some ideas expressed. There are some

interesting concepts. One of the concepts which emerged was the possible coming together or merger of PTA and SADCC which seems to indicate to us that there is much thought being given to what the future relationships in economic terms within the region should entail.

The South African Customs Union obviously is also a structure which exists within the southern African region. It is limited to fewer countries than SADCC, for example, and one would want to, in very close consultation and discussion with all South African neighbors together, decide what the nature of our economic position in this part of the world should be like. I don't think that we have any specific blueprint, but I think that what I would like to stress is that we should as soon as possible, enter into discussions of this nature so that all the countries of the region can have an input into whatever structures are to be decided upon. I think that it is imperative that we look at where we are at the moment, and if we'd look at that kind of structure, or that we look a structure, which would best suit the specific economic condition which is [word indistinct] in South Africa.

[Lang] The fact that South Africa doesn't have full diplomatic relations with most countries in southern Africa, to what extent is this a problem?

[Auret] I think it is increasingly becoming less of a problem despite the fact that we have not had relations of any sorts, certainly not diplomatic relations with any of the southern African countries, with the exception of Malawi, has not in the past proved to be an inhibiting factor to [word indistinct]. You will be aware that despite the very important period of sanctions which is now behind us, South Africa did in fact trade with most African countries. I do not think that diplomatic relations per se are a prerequisite for trade to continue. Trade...

[Lang, interrupting] A (?condition) which would facilitate?

[Auret] It would facilitate it indeed. I would agree with you as far as that is concerned. It is not a prerequisite. It does facilitate it, and I'm very happy to say that as far as most African and southern African countries are concerned we have now established formal relations, not necessarily of a dramatic nature, but certainly a relationship which could further facilitate the kind of discussion and [word indistinct].

[Lang] The question of aid causes quite lot of debate as well, and many countries have expected, if not explicitly...[changes thought] Tacitly they expect South Africa to be a source of aid, but government officials have repeatedly said that South Africa doesn't have money because we need the aid in South Africa itself. How are you going to deal with this?

[Auret] You are quite right. The expectations in terms of what South Africa is able, or will be able to do, or what countries wish South Africa to do, as far as they themselves are concerned, are enormous. As a matter of fact,

it is a factor which concerns us very much, because as you correctly point out, South Africa does not have the (?finances) which will simply make possible donations of large amounts of aid. However, I must point out that the assistance which we can give (?practically) in other fields, the expertise which we have developed in South Africa, which is geared specifically to African conditions together with the involvement of other countries where development aid funds are available, becomes an option which we are seriously looking at and which we would seriously also wish to consider with our future partners in these endeavors.

[Lang] You are talking now about a sort of triangular aid package?

[Auret] Indeed, indeed.

[Lang] But now a problem that I've seen with that kind of thing is, if Britain, for example, wishes to give aid to another country, let us say Zambia in southern Africa. Why would they give a contract to a South African company and not a British company?

[Auret] That is their prerogative to do so. But I think there is an increasing recognition abroad, certainly amongst the major donors of the world, that South African expertise, that South African technical capabilities, which are specifically geared to African conditions are eminently [word indistinct] to maximize the aid which is in fact [word indistinct]. So I used the example in an earlier conversation today of, for example, seed production, one would not simply be able to use seed which has been developed for European conditions in any of the southern African countries because of the climatic conditions and other agricultural conditions which are [word indistinct]. Whereas South Africa has, in fact, developed seed to use, again the example, which is geared to the specific conditions of the region and which in terms of yield, et cetera, is best suited and would maximize the effect of the aid.

[Lang] Let us now turn to the giantisms syndrome. South Africa is by far the biggest and commercially attractive country in the region. Will (?size) not cause a certain amount of resentment, especially when coupled with the brain drain from the less developed parts of the region towards South Africa?

[Auret] We are very aware, acutely aware, of the potential problem which that can have within the development of a new economic structure within the region. But I must make clear that South Africa does not want to be the dominating force in the region. We do not see South Africa in the role of an economic dominating giant. We are not interested in economic [word indistinct]. What we are interested in primarily is a partnership with the countries in the region, and I believe that it will be through the consultations and discussions with our neighbors that we can arrive at solutions which would take adequate care of this problem which we are very sensitive to. South Africa does not want to impose itself economically, it wants to develop together with its

neighbors in the region—the economic potential and the benefits which are to be found throughout the region.

[Lang] I realize that this is not a South African policy to [word indistinct], but it's a natural factor that South Africa does have more to export.

[Auret] I think that there are ways and means of accommodating that. I think there are the possibility, or there is the possibility of arriving at formulae in terms of relationships between the states which could accommodate the fears which we are aware exist in our neighbors.

[Lang] And dealing with the brain drain?

[Auret] Well, that to us is also a very serious matter. We believe that one of the priorities which we should establish within the region is the question of manpower training, skills training, within the countries concerned. The needs there are great. The needs in South Africa are great, but we need to have countries develop economic infrastructures. We need countries to develop job opportunities which would prevent the kind of gravitation itself which you have just referred to.

There is no question that within the context of existing economic structures such as PTA and SADCC, this is also enjoying immense and considerable attention, and has become a high priority. I think skills development throughout Africa is one of the issues which require immediate attention and certainly which we would help to encourage. As you know, we have already—in terms of development aid—we are able to provide this. [Word indistinct] established training centers in Mozambique, where we have had excellent results in terms of creating skills, which allow people to set up business, and in fact to generate jobs. And I think this is the kind of direction we would increasingly (?look) towards.

[Lang] South Africa actually establishes training centers in other countries?

[Auret] Well, we assisted Mozambique in establishing a training center, yes, where basic skills are taught. And as I've said with excellent results. This is part of our development aid project, and we are looking also towards other countries, Angola in particular, where there is a need for the kind of skilled training, and where we think that that can contribute, as I said earlier, to establishing a better economic, a resounding economic base, for individuals to go out there and set up business, etcetera.

[Lang] Let us turn now to Zambia, the country that has recently undergone profound political change, and it seems as though there is a lot of economic change going on within Zambia itself, too. The IMF has given her more loans, and they are restructuring the economy. How will this affect the southern African question, the southern African economy? Will it alter the polarity? What difference will it make?

[Auret] I think the transformation which has occurred in Zambia has been a remarkable one. Clearly, President

Chiluba has indicated that his prime objective is to establish or reestablish a free market system within Zambia. And I think that the direction which that government has now taken in developing its economy has, as you correctly pointed out, achieved international recognition by the IMF. I think it can only have a positive affect on the kind of economy which we envisage could be constructed in southern Africa.

ANC Offers 'Olive Branch' on Interim Rule Issue

MB1202135692 Johannesburg THE STAR
in English 12 Feb 92 pp 1, 3

[Report by Esther Waugh and Peter Fabricius: "ANC [African National Congress] Olive Branch To Govt"]

[Text] What delegates called "nitty-gritty" negotiations got under way at Codesa [Convention for a Democratic South Africa] yesterday with the ANC [African National Congress] offering an olive branch to the Government on the fraught question of interim rule.

This marked convergence between the major players came as four of the five Codesa working groups assembled at the World Trade Centre in Kempton Park.

The ANC released detailed proposals for an interim government which showed important signs of flexibility and convergence with the Government's approach.

A transitional government "package" is the most urgent task facing Codesa, as the negotiations process cannot move forward substantially without agreement on this.

In its proposals the ANC said it was prepared to consider the idea that an elected constituent assembly could perform as a legislature during the interim period. Previously the ANC favoured an appointed interim structure, ruling by decree.

Insistence on an elected rather than appointed transitional legislature is a key element in the Government's proposals.

There is room for compromise between the two sides as the Government now accepts the need for an elected body to draw up the new constitution.

However, the ANC's favoured scenario would involve an "interim government council", appointed by Codesa, which would administer key aspects of government in the interim period. Crucially, the council would also supervise elections for the constituent assembly.

The ANC said its proposed interim government council should co-ordinate and supervise the existing Government administrations and should be "vested with legislative and executive functions to be exercised in accordance with procedures and structures to be determined by Codesa".

"The interim government should have legal form, which means that the structures and powers of the interim

government must be defined in legislation, and that where necessary, amendments should be made to the existing constitution," the ANC proposals said.

It proposed that no contentious legislation should be enacted and no contentious executive action taken during the period of transition.

"We see it as a period during which there should be government by consensus or substantial consensus," the ANC said. The interim government would fall away as soon as a new government was installed in terms of the new constitution.

During the transition phase all apartheid structures should be removed. This was why the proposals were linked to the reincorporation of the homelands, and an end to the tricameral Parliament and other apartheid legislatures.

Some delegates told The Star they also detected convergence on the controversial question of federalism in yesterday's meeting of Working Group 2 on constitutional principles.

They said SA Communist Party [SACP] chairman Joe Slovo had appeared to soften opposition to the idea of considerable powers being devolved from the central government to regional governments. Substantive devolution of power is a key demand of groups like the IFP [Inkatha Freedom Party] and the Democratic Party.

Previously, the position of the ANC/SACP alliance had been that powers devolved to regions should be severely curtailed.

In his submission, Mr Slovo yesterday said "defined powers" should be devolved to regional entities. However, these regions would not have the right to separate from a united South Africa.

The SACP envisaged such "entities" being defined in terms of geographic and economic considerations.

Government sources said that although Mr Slovo had proposed only limited devolved powers for regions, they felt it was important that he had accepted the principle of devolution.

In spite of the progress made yesterday, it was clear that much hard bargaining lies ahead on many contentious issues. Among the more obvious areas of difference which emerged were the merits and demerits of affirmative action, the question of whether power-sharing should be entrenched in the constitution, and who should supervise elections for a constituent assembly or interim legislature.

The steps to a final new government envisaged in the ANC's interim government proposals are:

—Codesa agrees on an interim government council to be the supreme executive during the transition and agrees on legislative and executive functions.

- Parliament changes the present constitution accordingly.
- The interim government council takes over the co-ordination and supervision of existing Government departments—at least the security forces, the public media and the Budget.
- Its main function is to supervise elections for a constituent assembly.

After such elections, the ANC proposes two possibilities. Either the interim government council continues to run the country until the constituent assembly has completed its work and a new parliament is in place, or the constituent assembly is vested with sovereign powers so that it functions both as a constituent assembly or as an interim legislature until the new constitution has been adopted.

The ANC said it was still considering the implications of the suggestion that the constituent assembly be vested with sovereign powers, and did not yet have a firm position on the issue.

This was the most important area of convergence between the ANC and the Government's interim proposals.

"There is possibly a way in which our proposals and those of some of the parties who have already stated their positions can be brought together so as to meet the purposes that we have identified as the essential purposes of an interim government," the ANC said.

"We are willing to explore such possibilities."

In a subcommittee of the working group on the creation of a climate for free political activity, the ANC said bilateral discussions between itself and the Government on political prisoners had been unsuccessful. The political prisoner issue should therefore be referred to Codesa, the ANC proposed.

IFP, ANC Urge SADF To Stay in Meadowlands

MB1202070392 Johannesburg South African Broadcasting Corporation Network in English 0500 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] Regional representatives of the African National Congress [ANC], and the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) in the Transvaal, have called on the police and the South African Defense Force [SADF] to remain in the Soweto suburb of Meadowlands, where clashes between hostel dwellers and residents of neighboring areas claimed 13 lives last weekend.

After a meeting called by the greater Soweto Dispute Resolution Committee, and ANC representative, Mr. Gabi Mozonkutu, called on the people of Soweto to refrain from acts that will lead to violence. The delegations agreed to reconvene in three days to afford an opportunity to other political and other organizations to participate.

The IFP delegation was led by IFP secretary for western Transvaal, Mr. Humphrey Ndlhovu, and the leader of the Inkatha Youth Brigade, Mr. Themba Khosa.

IFP Lists Attacks on Leaders 31 Jan-8 Feb

MB1102172792 Johannesburg SABA in English 1621 GMT 11 Feb 92

[SABA PR Wire Service issued by Inkatha Freedom Party on 11 February]

[Text] 11 February 1992

Attempted assassinations and successful attacks on IFP [Inkatha Freedom Party] office bearers from 31.01.1992 until 08.02.1992—a period of 9 days:

This information was compiled by the Inkatha Institute's Violence Study Unit:

31 Jan 1992 Empangweni/Bulwer

IFP leaders, including Mr David Ntombela, Nkosi Ngubane, Nkosi Nogobo and Nkosi Hlongwane came under fire from ANC [African National Congress] supporters at an IFP meeting in the area; the leader was ambushed and fired on next to the road leading into the area where posters advertising the launching of Bulwer Umkhonto we Sizwe [Spear of the Nation (MK); ANC military wing] were found and other posters threatening and insulting the IFP. Over 100 women came forward to make statements complaining of ANC forced recruitment, intimidation and extortion of money.

31 Jan 1992 Hopewell/Ixopo

IFP chairperson, Mr J. Shange, was shot and wounded by alleged ANC supporters in Hopewell. This incident follows other acts of intimidation and harassment of the IFP in this area.

03 Feb 1992 KwaMashu:

An alleged ANC hit squad comprising of coloured, Indian and black assassins launched an attack against kwaMashu Section E Councillor and IFP Chairman Vilakazi of the kwaMashu branch. In the attack, grenades and an assortment of firearms (AK47's, Makarov and scorpion pistols) closely associated with MK operations were used resulting in over R[and]150,000 damage being done to the property. One child suffered a wounded leg in the incident which was subsequently amputated by doctors. The use by the attackers of fields of cover, code words to refer to each other and the use of cross-fire and short bursts of fire at exits after grenade blasts all indicate a high degree of training. This attack was launched by a well trained team of men with military experience. Information received re-enforces the belief that an MK hit squad is operating in this area and others.

05 Feb 1992 Patheni/Richmond:

The home of IFP chairperson in Patheni Mr Paulus Vezi was attacked by supporters of the ANC. Mr Vezi is also the leader of the IFP peace delegation in this area. In the attack, four groups of ANC supporters attacked Mr Vezi's kraal from different sides in order to gain maximum cross-fire. The attackers shot Mr Vezi in the stomach with an AK47 when he tried to escape from the huts. Other members of the Patheni community opened fire on the attackers and a Mr Justice Vezi, brother of Paulus was killed. Justice Vezi was an ANC supporter and had long been involved in acts of aggression against the IFP.

05 Feb 1992 Imbali:

About 15 gunmen attempted to assassinate IFP leader Abdul Awetha in Imbali. In the attack, three young children were shot in the head. Mr Abdul Awetha, was transporting children to school in the township at about 6:30 am in the morning when the vehicle in which he was travelling in was ambushed by an alleged ANC hit squad. The attackers used Makarovs and AK47s, automatic weapons frequently associated with Umkhonto we Sizwe operations. The bullets used in the initial stages of the attack were armour piercing, 17 expended rounds were found at the scene. When the vehicle stopped, a grenade was thrown under the front of the car. The grenade explosion rendered the car immobile and Mr Awetha and his son Ismail managed to get out of the car but three children did not manage to escape. According to eye witnesses, the alleged ANC assassins then walked up to the vehicle and shot the three children at close range in the head killing them instantly. Ismail Awetha provided the names of the deceased who are Nkanyiso Sithole (10), Precious Chiliza (6) and Noluthando Mkhize (9), all were scholars at the Berg Street Primary School.

07 Feb 1992 Umlazi:

IFP Central Committee member and kwa Zulu MP, Mr Winnington Sabelo was assassinated in his shop by a gunman who fired three rounds into Mr Sabelo's body at close range. Mr Sabelo was a leader dedicated to peace and had just been involved in making a joint appeal for peace with ANC leader Felix Dlamini.

08 Feb 1992 Dindi/Taylors Halt

At about 20:00, the car in which IFP branch chairperson, Mr G. Phoswa was travelling in Edendale Road, was ambushed by alleged ANC operatives. The operatives fired an assortment of weapons at the vehicle which was damaged in the attack. A passenger, Mr M Magubane was shot and wounded in the attack before the vehicle managed to move out of the range of fire.

There have been other incidents where IFP leaders have been attacked during the past 10 days but this information is still being collected in detail. Further information will be available from the Violence Study Unit are: Mr Kim Hodgson and Mr Ed Tillet. [sentence as received]

Kriel: 2,239 Killed in Political Violence in 1991

*MB1202152992 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1402 GMT 12 Feb 92*

[Text] Parliament Feb 12 SAPA—Political violence claimed 2,239 lives in 1991, including 50 policemen, two members of the SA [South African] Defence Force and four black councillors, Law and Order Minister Hernus Kriel said on Wednesday [12 February]. He was responding in a written reply to a question by Mr Robin Carlisle (DP [Democratic Party] Wynberg).

AZAPO: Reportage on Teacher Attacks Racist

*MB1002145792 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1035 GMT 10 Feb 92*

[Text] Johannesburg Feb 10 SAPA—The Azanian People's Organisation [AZAPO] has condemned the racism of some sections of the media and certain black organisations for reacting only to attacks on white teachers in the townships.

In a statement on Monday, the head of the organisation's education secretariat, Mr Gomolemo Mokae, said that at the about the same time a white teacher was set alight in Katlehong recently, a black teacher's house was torched in Mamelodi, and black teachers were stabbed in Mamelodi, Soshanguve and Alexandra.

He added that he found the plans by student organisations to protect white teachers "ridiculous".

"If the said organisations want to protect anyone, let them protect thousands of black teachers across the length and breadth of the land."

These teachers' lives were endangered by students who believed in slogans like "pass one, pass all" and "liberation before education".

Although AZAPO did not condone the actions against white teachers in Katlehong, it understood the exasperation giving rise to such actions, Mr Mokae said. Far too many black teachers were unemployed.

"Posts which could be occupied by these black teachers are occupied by white teachers who have opportunities for employment in both white and black schools."

Mr Mokae warned that protecting white teachers in Katlehong could deal with the crisis only temporarily. It would inevitably flare up elsewhere.

"Black education should not be held to ransom over the plight of a few white teachers."

PAC Rejects 'Watchdog' Anti-White Teacher Effort*MB1002150092 Johannesburg Radio RSA in English
1100 GMT 10 Feb 92*

[From the "Africa South" program]

[Text] The Pan-Africanist Congress [PAC] has disassociated itself from a campaign to remove white teachers from black schools in South Africa. Campaign leaders, known as watchdogs, have claimed PAC affiliation in their action which is included assaults on white teachers, and in one case, dousing a white teacher with petrol and setting him alight. This reaction from PAC student organizations spokesman Eugene Motati:

[Begin Motati recording] Apparently, the Katlehong Revolutionary Watchdogs are a dissident formation from the PAC. This group apparently [word indistinct] which constitute another organization. They've got their own leadership. They've got their own program of action. They have called their own conferences throughout 1991, and they are not accountable to the PAC. But the unfortunate situation is that they decided to stick to our logo, the PAC logos, the PAC slogans and the PAC T-shirts and flags are always seen whenever those people have [word indistinct]. And we are going to do something. [end recording]

South African Press Review for 13 Feb*MB1302114592*

[Editorial Report]

THE STAR

ANC-Government Convergence on Interim Rule—"Even professional political observers are confused, so the public can be forgiven for not understanding the minutiae of the latest 'convergence' between the ANC [African National Congress] and the Government on a package for interim rule," begins a page 20 editorial in Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 13 February. "But for once, it is not the substance that matters so much as the style. The fact is that after a prolonged period of hair-splitting, both parties have realised that the country cannot afford undue delays—and they have got down to business in an open-minded, flexible mood." "What has happened is that after President de Klerk's crucial shift in December on the question of interim government, the ANC has responded in kind."

BUSINESS DAY

Mandela Shows 'Encouraging Signs' on Economic Preconceptions—Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English on 13 February in a page 10 editorial says World Bank President Lewis Preston, in the role of "tutor", is "about to contribute to Nelson Mandela's refresher course in economics" when he meets with Mandela on 13 February. "The student has been showing encouraging signs of shedding some formerly preconceived ideas and is much more open to inputs of the type Preston will

present. It is just as well. Continued calls by the extra-parliamentary opposition for financial sanctions to remain in place until a multiparty interim government is established do not make sense. Problems are piling up for an economy already severely depressed by six years of international financial ostracism. Extending this quarantine when the momentum of reform is clearly unstoppable is sheer folly."

SOWETAN

Reform of Penal System Required—"The reform of an apartheid-based penal system is opportune now that we are in the midst of a transformation of the country's political systems and social order," points out a page 10 editorial in Johannesburg SOWETAN in English on 13 February. "The need for this reform has been underscored by the criticism levelled at the prison authorities by some of the country's judges over the premature release of hardened criminals."

*** Armscor To Be Divided Into Two Branches***92AF0255B Johannesburg BEELD in Afrikaans
29 Nov 91 p 2*

[Article by Marga Ley: "Armscor To Be Divided Into Two Separate Firms"]

[Text] On 1 April of next year, Armscor [South African Armaments Corporation] will be divided into two separate firms—a purchasing organization under the Minister of Defense and Communication and an industrial corporation under the Minister of Economic Coordination and Public Enterprises.

This is one of the recommendations in a report submitted for further consideration to the two concerned ministers by the management of Armscor, after an in-depth investigation into the restructuring and repositioning of Armscor.

The two ministers said in a joint declaration that the new purchasing organization will retain the name of Military Hardware Corporation of South Africa, Ltd. (Armscor) and will do business in compliance with the Armscor statutes.

This new Armscor will provide professional purchasing and logistical support for the South African security services and will be responsible to the Minister of Defense and Communication.

The Armscor management recommends in the report that Armscor remain housed in the present Armscor Building and that unoccupied spaces in this building be rented out to various departments of the South African Army.

We understand that the Chief Executive of the Army and his staff, among others, will be moved into this building.

The new industrial corporation—concerning which more details will be made known later—will be housed elsewhere.

This corporation is geared to fit the present industrial concerns of Armscor; it will do business in compliance with corporation law and be subject to the tax laws, the statement reads.

"In order to protect national investments, it has been proposed that the state initially retain the shares of the new industrial corporation."

President F.W. De Klerk announced on 30 July of this year that there will be changes in Armscor with a view toward applying the skills that have been built up, to the advantage of the overall economy.

* Armscor Affiliate To Lay Off Cape Workers

92AF0255A Johannesburg *BEELD in Afrikaans*
29 Nov 91 p 2

[Article: "Armscor [South African Armaments Corporation] Affiliate Lays Off 322 Workers in Cape"]

[Text] Cape Town: It appears from inquiries made yesterday that the jobs of 322 employees of Houwteq, the Cape Armscor affiliate, Overberg Testing Ground (OTB) and Swartklip will be terminated in December of this year and in March of 1992.

This is a follow-up to the press statement last October, in which Armscor President, Johan van Vuuren, said that 5,000 Armscor workers nationwide will be affected by the reduction of personnel.

All those laid off will receive compensation pay and assistance in finding other work.

* Ministries Summarize Armscor Restructuring

92AF0352B Johannesburg *ARMED FORCES*
in English Jan 92 p 10

[Article: "The Future of Armscor [South African Armaments Corporation] and the Defence Industry; An Announcement by the Ministries; A Greater Commercial Approach Suggested"]

[Text] In a joint statement, the Minister of Defence and Communications and the Minister of Economic Co-ordination and Public Enterprises released the following information concerning the future structure of the State-owned section of the South African armament industry. While the press release makes it clear that the recommendations have still to be approved by both Ministers involved and the Cabinet, informed opinion is that these recommendations will be accepted as they are the result of amended recommendations which were previously submitted.

"On 31 July 1991, the State President announced that, due to the Republic's armaments requirements, Armscor

would be repositioned in order to harness its capabilities to the benefit of the broad economy. The State President also indicated that the political management of Armscor would eventually be transferred from the Ministry of Defense and Communication to the Ministry of Economic Co-operation and Public Enterprises.

A thorough investigation into the restructuring of Armscor has been undertaken, under the guidance of the Armscor Board of Directors. This investigation has now been completed. A report and recommendations have been submitted by Armscor's Board of Directors to the two Ministers for further consideration.

- An acquisitions company, answerable to the Minister of Defence and Communications, which will provide a professional acquisition and logistical support service to the South African Security Services.

This organisation will retain the name of *Armaments Corporation of South Africa Limited (Armscor)*, and will function in terms of the Armscor Act.

- An industrial company, answerable to the Minister for Economic Co-ordination and Public Enterprises, which will represent the industrial interest of Armscor.

The new industrial company will operate in terms of the companies Act and will be liable for tax.

It has been suggested that the State should initially retain all shares in the new industrial company.

Armscor's Board of Directors recommends that Armscor should retain its present location in the Armscor building, and that vacant accommodation in the building should be rented to sections of the South African Defence Force.

The head office of the new industrial company will be located elsewhere.

The recommendations of the Board of Directors of Armscor are being considered by the two Ministers; thereafter, they will be submitted to the Cabinet for approval.

Additional information on the new industrial company will be made available at that time."

In all probability, the private sector of the industry will, in future, play a far greater role in the direction of the industry, whilst the thrust will be directed at the export potential. It is obvious that the mantle of secrecy that was often—too often?, invoked in the past resulted in extra costs and limited sales. But now the new, yet-to-be-announced, structure will necessarily have sales as one of its prime objectives.

The anticipated full announcement regarding the new structure could well incorporate advisers from the private sector to ensure that there is no future risk of duplication of projects.

The little information that has been made public concerning the recommendations for the future indicates that a viable organisation is envisaged. However, some of the recommendations, such as renting of accommodation to the SA [Republic of South Africa] Defence Force [SADF], is already being implemented—a further indication that they will be accepted.

The recent Armscor weapons exhibition, organised by Armscor at the Gerotek Test Range, opened many doors and showed the path that the industry will have to follow in order to expand and survive!

The suggestion this Journal made concerning the possibility of holding a joint Defense Weapons Exhibition, coupled with a Military Exercise, should now be carefully considered by the industry.

* Russian Investment: Solar Panel Factory

92AF0255C Johannesburg *BEELD in Afrikaans*
3 Dec 92 p 4

[Article by Neels Jackson: "Russians Invest Millions in Solar Energy in South Africa"]

[Text] The first investment by Russia since diplomatic relations were restored between South Africa and the Soviet Union will result in the construction of a Solar Panel factory in Verwoerdburg.

The collaborative agreement between one South African and three European firms involves a foreign investment of more than 8 million rands [R].

In addition, this affords new possibilities of supplying electricity to remote regions of southern Africa.

Rusty Evans, assistant director-general for foreign affairs, said yesterday at the unveiling of Helios Power's plans that this sort of collaborative agreement is a model for other undertakings.

South Africa would very much like to underwrite the economic welfare of Southern Africa, but frequently it does not have the money to undertake large projects. This problem may be resolved, however, by tripartite agreements between enterprises in South Africa, other African nations and Europe.

In the future, these kinds of agreements will be a hallmark of economic life, he said.

Duard Barnard, the CEO of Helios Power, said that the technology for the factory comes primarily from Italy. The financing comes from a group with various interests in Moscow. Silicon, one of the most important raw materials, comes from Russia.

Initially the cells that convert sunlight into electricity will be made in Italy. They will then be constructed into solar panels in the factory at the Gateway Industrial Park in Verwoerdburg. Later the cells will be manufactured here as well.

A typical product of the factory will provide enough power to energize a radio, a TV set, and four lamp bulbs. Such a system, including among other things a solar panel with a guarantee of ten years, a battery, four bulbs, and installation, will cost the consumer 2,750 rands.

The aim is to begin production by the middle of next year and to produce more than 30,000 panels of varying intensities.

* First Nonracial Schools in Johannesburg Open

92AF0352A Johannesburg *THE STAR in English*
9 Jan 92 p 2

[Article: "Three Schools Open Doors To All"]

[Text] History was made yesterday as hundreds of newly registered black pupils reported at their respective schools to mark the official opening of the first three nonracial institutions in Johannesburg.

No eyebrows were raised when a sea of black faces mingled freely in the suburbs of Orange Grove, Troyeville and Malvern.

A large poster which read "Welcome to the reopening of Orange Grove School as a nonracial TED [Transvaal Education Department] school" signalled a small but significant step towards opening previously "whites-only" schools to black pupils.

Speaking at the first morning assembly at Orange Grove Primary, city councillor Les Dishy, in whose ward the school is situated, said the admission of black pupils to the school was a momentous occasion.

Although only three white pupils have enrolled at the school this year, Mr. Dishy said many parents would have applied for their children to attend, but the announcement had been made very late.

He said the community was very supportive and there were no objections to black pupils attending school in the area.

Headmistress Margaret Greve said it concerned her that very few white pupils had applied for admission to the school, but she hoped the situation would improve.

"It does worry because, if we are going to represent what society should be, then we must have white children sitting side by side with black children," said Mrs. Greve.

The three new Model D schools could only accommodate just more than 1,000, mainly drawn from grossly overcrowded township classrooms.

Addressing a press conference at Orange Grove Primary, the general-secretary of the southern Transvaal region of the National Education Coordinating Committee (NECC), Arnon Msane, said that if all under-utilised and

empty white schools were used, this would increase the number of black pupils at schools in white areas by at least 32 percent.

"Such expansion might alleviate some of the difficulties the DET [Department of Education and Training] is currently experiencing in meeting the demand for educational facilities," he said.

The NECC called on the Government to abolish Models A, B and C schools—which allow a limited admission of black pupils—and to open all schools to all pupils.

* Conservative Party Reacts To Mixed Schools

92AF0352F Johannesburg *THE STAR* in English
13 Jan 92 p 7

[Article by Michael Sparks: "Mixed-School Furore Grows"]

[Text] The Conservative Party [CP] says it has received "numerous" phone calls from parents angry at the Government's insistence last week that schools which have chosen to remain all-white must include in their extra-mural fixture lists schools which have admitted black pupils.

"There is a frustration and anger building up under the whites at the way the Government is treating them. They are quite out of touch with the feelings of whites in this country," said CP spokesman on education Andrew Gerber.

"I received many calls during the week, including several from English-speaking parents who are not happy. They are in a mood that will not be good for this Government if there is an election," he said.

Mr. Gerber said the parents were upset because Minister of Education and Culture Piet Marais last year gave parents the power to decide whether schools should play against schools which had adopted models B, C or D—which allowed black children to attend previously whites-only schools.

"Now the Government has just taken away that choice dictatorially," Mr. Gerber said.

He added: "The Government has no mandate to do this. Before the 1989 election the Government promised 'own schools'. Now, without going back to the electorate, they are opening schools to all, against the will of the whites.

"Our people are not accepting that, nor are many from the National Party [NP]. We have also had many people who used to support the National Party calling us."

Asked what resistance the CP was planning, Mr. Gerber said it was not up to his party to decide what parents should do.

"But I can assure you they will not accept it and there will be disruptions at schools. Things will not go on as they have gone in the past."

He pointed out that disruptions could take the form of parents keeping their children away from events against schools with black pupils.

"If five out of the 15 players in a rugby team don't arrive, then things are disrupted," Mr. Gerber said.

When it was pointed out that those five may not be chosen to play in future, he said: "If the school is willing to put in a second team to play a first-team match, then what's the point?"

"Anyway, 'n boe maak 'n plan," he added.

Asked whether disruptions included the possible use of violence, Mr. Gerber said: "Violence will not come from the CP. But the people are not going to stand for the situation."

On the subject of the recent spate of bombings that destroyed schools which were going to include black pupils, Mr. Gerber said: "The Government must accept the blame for that. I place the blame for that squarely on the shoulders of the Government. This Government is forcing people to do things they wouldn't normally do."

* Terreblanche Downplays Significance of Yster Camp

92AF0358A Johannesburg *BEELD* in Afrikaans
30 Dec 91 p 2

[Report by political editorial staff: "Yster Guard Camp is Nothing New, says ET"]

[Text] The Yster Guard camp in the Free State near the Lesotho border is nothing new and was not a secret camp, said Mr. Eugene Terreblanche, leader of the Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB), yesterday when BEELD asked him about it.

Such camps regularly take place all over the country, including in the Cape, he said.

A great deal of confidence must be maintained in such camps, however, and it is not advertised for just anyone.

"We are continually involved with camps. There is nothing sinister about that. We are busy preparing ourselves for the revolution which will be unleashed by the African National Congress (ANC).

"There will be war...I am certainly not going to let myself be killed," said Mr. Terreblanche.

He denied that the AWB had anything to do with the BRL [Boer Republican Army] or the "newsletter."

"The AWB are the interpreters of the will of the country, but they alone do not interpret the peoples' will." Rightists nationwide are preparing themselves for the attack of the ANC.

As to the claim of Mr. Leon van der Merwe, the leader of the Yster Guard, that military experts of the Netherlands

and Ireland are training the "Yster men," Terreblanche said he could not discuss his instructors, except to say that they are among the world's best.

To Captain Craig Kotze, who says that the police know everything about the Yster Guard, he wants to say: "We know everything about the police."

He sees that remark of Captain Kotze as yet another attempt at intimidation, says Mr. Terreblanche.

He is planning to talk precisely about that with Mr. Hernus Kriel, the Minister of Law and Order.

The manner in which functions of the AWB are watched and recorded on video is a "God-awful" abuse of the AWB's privacy. On the Day of the Covenant celebration of the organization "even small children were photographed by the police."

If that continues, he will summarily decide that the police no longer be allowed at AWB functions, Mr. Terreblanche said.

Angola

UK Parliamentary Delegation Meets UNITA's Savimbi

MB1302084292 Luanda Radio Nacional Network
in Portuguese 0600 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] A British parliamentary delegation which arrived in our country three days ago is happy with the peace efforts undertaken by the Angolan people, and feels encouraged to support the process.

Deputy (David Eddington), head of the British parliamentary delegation, said that during his contacts in the country, he noted a serious commitment to the peace process. He said this yesterday after a meeting with Jonas Savimbi, leader of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola.

Canada To Send Ballot-Boxes, Personnel for Elections

MB1302085092 Luanda Radio Nacional Network
in Portuguese 0600 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] Canadian Special Envoy (Walter MacKlin), who has been visiting Huambo Province, returned to Luanda yesterday. The envoy said Canada will send ballot-boxes and personnel to Angola to assist in the electoral process.

Botswana

Government Abolishes Grain Importation 'Monopoly'

MB0702182892 Gaborone Radio Botswana Network
in English 1610 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] The Ministry of Agriculture has abolished with immediate effect the monopoly for grain importation presently enjoyed by the Botswana Agricultural Marketing Board.

All licensed cereal and grain traders, dealers, and wholesalers who want to import sorghum should obtain import permits from the regional agricultural officers and the ministry headquarters.

A news release from the ministry said the liberalization of grain imports is in view of the new agricultural development policy of using import parity prices for grain.

The release further advises farmers to adopt peasant farming methods, in view of the lack of rain during the present rainy season. It urges livestock farmers to sell their cattle, goats and sheep to the Botswana Meat Commission. They are also advised to sell their oxen, [words indistinct].

The release also urges small-stock farmers, especially goat farmers, to sell as many goats as possible. It says both the cattle and goat populations have reached unacceptably high levels, adding that the (?range) cannot sustain them. There are about 3 million cattle and over 2 million goats.

It warns those farmers who will not sell their livestock early that they will experience unnecessary deaths of livestock later in the year.

Crop farmers from the southern part of the country, says the release, should have stopped plowing by 15 January, while the latest day for plowing for farmers in the north is 15 February, which is next Saturday. It says these deadlines refer to planting of maize, sorghum, and sunflower, and any planting after these dates will be a waste of resources.

It says farmers with irrigation facilities should seek technical advice from staff of the Department of Crop Production and Forestry.

Finance Minister Says Budget Surplus 'Expected'

MB1102183992 Gaborone Radio Botswana Network
in English 1910 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] The minister of finance and development planning, Mr. Festus Mogae, says Botswana's foreign exchange reserves now stand at about 7 billion pula. Mr. Mogae was presenting the 1992-93 budget in Parliament this afternoon. He told the house that no deficit is now anticipated, and instead an overall budget surplus of 109 million pula is expected.

It was initially anticipated that there would be a deficit of about 582 million pula for the 1992-93 financial year before salary adjustment and drought relief contingencies. Mr. Mogae attributed the surplus to the good performance of the country's major revenue sources—minerals, customs and excise duties, and profits from the Bank of Botswana. They are now expected to exceed the forecasts of the NDP [National Development Program] 7.

Parliament further heard that revenue expenditures in the 1990-91 financial years experienced faster than expected growth with revised estimates indicating that it was likely to be true also for the year 1991-92. Mr. Mogae said total revenues and grants in final accounts for the 1990-91 financial year amounted to 3,741 million pula, representing a 13 percent increase over the revised estimates for the same year. Total expenditures included (?net lending) amounted to 2,943 million pula, an increase of 9 percent over the revised estimates for 1990-91, resulting in an overall budget surplus of 798 million pula.

Mr. Mogae says the expected turnout in respect of mineral revenues are now estimated to total 1,470 million pula in the 1991-92 financial year. This, he says, has resulted in combination of factors including increases in the average value of diamonds exported, approximating to 4 percent. He said this arose gradually over the years from high grading in dwelling to maintain current production at large levels which entailed greater production of larger and higher quality diamonds, as well as favorable movements in the pula-United States dollar exchange rate.

However, Mr. Mogae cautioned that future proceeds from the minerals sector remained uncertain, now that the central [word indistinct] organization has reportedly declined in total diamond sales during the 1991-92 financial year. Mr. Mogae says nonmineral taxes estimated last to have reached 2,241 million pula have also performed better than expected, and are now expected to total 405 million pula. Profits for the Bank of Botswana are estimated at 600 million pula, exceeding earlier expectations of 371 million pula, [word indistinct] 75 million pula, while improved interest earnings on investment of favorable international reserves representing the government's cash balances at the Bank of Botswana are above projection and accounted for the major part of the favorable turnout.

Mr. Mogae said the 1992-93 total estimated revenues and grants of 4,160 million pula, show an increase of 356 million pula over the last financial year, which was 3,808 million pula.

Meanwhile the 10 percent ad valorem sales tax is to be extended to all consumer goods, including all motor vehicles used for the conveyance of goods and persons. The additional net revenue from these sales tax measures is estimated to be 68 million pula during the 1992-93 financial year. However, Mr. Mogae told the house that exceptions will continue to be made in the case of food, medicine, books, and stationery. He said specific rates of tax on beer, wines, and spirits will be adjusted upwards taking into account the escalation of prices since February 1989 when they were last adjusted.

He said it's a general rule their rates will be kept in line with the ad valorem rate of 10 percent applicable to all items other than fuel.

Lesotho

Opposition Party Official Discusses Elections

MB0602202492 London BBC World Service in English
1705 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Interview with Evaristus Sekhonyana, leader of the Basotho National Party, by Barney Mthombothi in Maseru; from the "Focus on Africa" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] Parties and politicians in Lesotho are busy getting their political houses in order for general elections later this year, which should take the country back to civilian rule. One politician who is making a bold bid for power is Evaristus Sekhonyana. He served in the military government of Major General Lekhanya until the coup that toppled him in April last year. Mr. Sekhonyana fled to South Africa, but he is now back home and has taken over the leadership of the former ruling Basotho National Party, BNP. In Maseru, Barney Mthombothi asked him how he rated the chances of his party in the forthcoming elections.

[Sekhonyana] When one takes various issues into account, depending on whether the military understands what is going on, they have got to go back to the barracks now. The situation is irreversible. You are having a situation where the world has been promised elections in Lesotho. You are having a situation where the big donors are involved in this issue of the elections. The world is getting tired, of course, of unrepresentative governments, and I think the repercussions of stopping the process at this stage are so devastating that if I were there in the military I wouldn't take the chance. But I have got no reason, you know, to think that the military is not serious or that they will not go ahead with the process. We are unhappy for different reasons.

[Mthombothi] What are those reasons?

[Sekhonyana] It is the manner in which the government has gone about preparing for the registration. We had an unfortunate situation where the registration is taking place without enabling legislation and that by itself, it is something you cannot understand and we challenge that in court. I am in court now. We are in court against the government.

[Mthombothi] What exactly are you complaining about?

[Sekhonyana] You cannot register without a legislation. It has to be observed. If a 5-year-old child registers, you can't make an objection.

[Mthombothi] But aren't you sort of putting this banner into the [words indistinct].

[Sekhonyana] [Words indistinct] It is a very serious issue to people who have been without elections for a long time. Elections are won on registration. You fail with registration, you lose elections.

[Mthombothi] So, I mean up to now, I mean, I have just seen the [word indistinct] congress and there were thousands of people there. Are you quite confident that you can get your supporters out to vote and ...

[Sekhonyana, interrupts] Well, let me tell you. If there were thousands there and this was a conference, and there were people from all over congregating into Maseru, even from the Republic of South Africa, then you should have seen what I had last Saturday only in a district. Then that would send a totally different signal.

[Mthombothi] So, are you confident of winning?

[Sekhonyana] We are going to win.

Government To Close Consulate in Hong Kong

HK0802034592 Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA
MORNING POST in English 8 Feb 92 p 1

[Text] The Lesotho Government has decided to close its consulate in Hong Kong with immediate effect.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr Thabo Moeketsi, yesterday said the decision was made

on Thursday, but declined to elaborate on its reasons or the future of the South African kingdom's representation in the territory.

Mr Moeketsi considered it inappropriate for him to comment on "passport matters" which were the subject of an impending court hearing in Lesotho.

He said a number of Chinese holders of its passports which had been revoked by the Government were suing the Lesotho authorities.

A hearing is scheduled for Wednesday.

The possibility of the consulate's closure was first reported in the SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST a month ago.

A source said the decision followed weeks of discussions within several government departments.

Mr Moeketsi said the Government had informed the British High Commission in Maseru, its capital.

An official with the Commission confirmed the Lesotho Government had been in contact regarding the Hong Kong consulate.

However, he said that since "there was private consultation" between the governments it was "too early for us to comment further".

Mr Moeketsi said the honorary consul, Mrs Lydia Wu Tsang Kwok-hing, should receive a letter "in due course" notifying her of the decision.

Mrs Wu was not available for comment last night.

Mr Moeketsi said the Lesotho Government had no officials working at the consulate.

The Hong Kong Government's Protocol Division said it had not received any notice, but termination of consulate posts would be gazetted.

Malawi

BBC Reports on Prisoner Releases, Human Rights

MB0802083692 London BBC World Service in English
1830 GMT 7 Feb 92

[By David Huggy; from the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Malawi has been busy defending its human rights record recently against a barrage of international criticism of detentions without trial, and the whole treatment of political prisoners. Well, now prisoners have been released, but apparently that has not stopped the arrests. David Huggy, who was in Malawi recently, has been investigating.

[Begin Huggy recording] According to my information, some 50 prisoners have been released from detention. The releases took place in early January and included

several prisoners from (Lakuyu) Jail, but the country's two longest-serving detainees were not among them. (Dias Banda) and (Mwachabisa Ntali) are still in jail, as is the country's best known prisoner: Orton Chirwa. The releases come after new diplomatic pressure from the European Community. In December, the EEC approached the Malawians with a request either to release or bring to trial its detainees.

The government is keen to emphasize now its line that human rights are respected in Malawi and this week an article in the DAILY TIMES, the official newspaper, quoted the secretary to the president and Cabinet, McDonald Banda, as saying that the country has a good human rights record. The article even listed a series of allegations against the government, including torture in prison, arbitrary arrests, and a denial of the freedom of speech, saying they were machinations of dissidents. Mentioning dissent and itemizing complaints against the government is not the usual stock and trade of the official paper, but it is too soon to suggest that the political climate has really changed in Malawi.

Also this week, the TIMES reported cabinet member John Tembo as saying Malawians do not want to change the country's political system and detentions are still continuing. (Simon Mahone), a journalist, and (Sigary Kwalapetha), of the Export Promotions Council, have both been detained, the latter apparently for discussing multipartyism. [end recording]

Namibia

President Nujoma Outlines Plans for 1992

MB0702120792 Windhoek THE NAMIBIAN
in English 31 Jan 92 pp 1, 2

[By Editor Gwen Lister: "President Outlines Plans for 1992"]

[Text] The Government's main thrust for the year ahead would be self-sufficiency in food production.

Namibian President Sam Nujoma, outlining his Government's plans for 1992 in an interview with The Namibian emphasized that the economy was vitally important.

The President said there were plans to eliminate the so-called 'red line' and to vaccinate cattle so that the industry could be built up and strengthened. In this regard, he mentioned the expansion of the Eloo plant of Oshakati, where meat could be tinned and excess exported to neighbouring countries. This would benefit farmers in the region, who could then sell their beef at the same prices as farmers in other parts of the country. In turn this would enable them to employ others.

The President also envisaged increased production in small livestock, such as sheep and goats. Discussions had started with Middle East countries for the export of

mutton to that region. This would have started sooner had it not been for the Gulf War, the President said.

Since the Government's main thrust was self-sufficiency in food, ways and means to increase vegetable and fruit production were also being examined. There was a lack of proper distribution of food, and this needed to be examined as well.

The Government would further assist in the putting up of silos for times of drought so that maize, mahangu [variety unknown] and sorghum could be stored. Forestry was another area which would be expanded, and presently the Government was examining the feasibility of planting trees along the edge of the Namib Desert. The President expressed the opinion that maroela trees could be the answer as they were hardy and their fruit could be used for making juice, wine and other things.

Turning to fishing, the President said that while studies had not yet been completed into the country's fishing resources, there were indications that they were recuperating, especially hake. The Government need more patrol boats and helicopters to preserve fishing resources and needed to be 'tough with pirates' in the year ahead.

Education was the second important thrust of Government policy for the year ahead. There were still about 30,000 to 40,000 youngsters who did not have access to schooling, and shortage of funds was hampering progress in this regard. There was a need for more training and better education for all children, and in the year ahead emphasis should be placed on vocational training to provide skills to workers, especially in the field of agriculture.

Health was the third priority, President Nujoma said, and this had been an area badly neglected by the South African colonial administrators. In the main centres health facilities had been provided, but rural areas had been hopelessly neglected, and in the colonial era these places had been served mainly by the churches. During the war the SADF [South African Defense Force] had erected hospital in places like Oshakati, mainly to cater for their own soldiers, but they had had no programme of health for the people. Housing, he added, was another priority area.

Politically, President Nujoma felt his Government had succeeded in maintaining peace, stability and harmony in the country, especially taking into account "where we took off from." His Government, he added, had inherited "a nation in tatters." There were still incidents of racism, but by and large the Government's policy of national reconciliation had generally been accepted by the majority, and racists were getting 'fewer and fewer.'

Calling 1992 the 'year of implementation,' the President said that independence and freedom meant hard work and sacrifice. While the Government was doing its utmost to curb unemployment, people, he said, should be responsible to themselves as well, and initiate where they were able to do so.

Although they had taken off slowly, progress was being made with the development brigades, and already a 40km strip had been cleared near Omega. Cuban advisors were presently working with the Government on this scheme.

Further, there was a possibility of co-operatives being set up where people, ex-combatants in particular, could put their new found skills to work.

Namibia was doing well on the diplomatic front, the President said, and already had a large number of diplomats in the field. Independence had seen a large number of heads of state coming to Namibia for the independence celebrations, primarily because many of the countries had been involved in Namibia's struggle for freedom, and also because of the involvement of so many countries in the UN Transitional Assistance Group (UNTAG).

Negotiations continued on the integration of Walvis Bay into Namibia. South African groups such as the African National Congress (ANC), Pan-Africanist Congress (PAC), Council of Churches and trade unions, all agreed that Walvis Bay was part and parcel of Namibia, he said. Joint administration would be put into operation for the transitional period before full integration.

Asked why Resolution 432 of the UN Security Council could not be invoked for the immediate return of Walvis Bay, the President said that the South African Government had indicated a willingness to negotiate the matter and so it had been decided to proceed along this path.

With the negotiations was the admission by South Africa that Walvis Bay should be returned to Namibia, he added. Had the South Africans refused to pursue a policy of negotiating the reintegration of the port, then Namibia would have turned to the Security Council, he said.

Asked whether the almost two years of independence had brought with it any disappointments, the President said that if the colonial power had cared about Namibia it would not have left the country with the massive debt burden. France, he said by way of example, had cancelled all the debts of its former colonies.

Aid Package Agreement Signed With Europeans

*MB1202093692 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0921 GMT 12 Feb 92*

[By Carmen Honey]

[Text] Windhoek Feb 12 SAPA—Namibia and the European Commission signed a grant aid package worth approximately R [rand] 37 million or 10 million European Currency Units [ECU's] in Windhoek on Wednesday.

"I would like to stress the utmost importance that the European Commission places on providing support to the development of Namibia in order to bring the benefit

of this development to the rural communal areas," EC delegate to Namibia, Mr Louis Moreno, said at the signing ceremony.

The grant will be used to fund projects in education, technical assistance and training in the fisheries sector, resettlement of returnees and identifying and preparing activities for future financing.

Just under half the amount, in the form of targeted budgetary support, is for improving veterinary services in the northern communal areas, agricultural training and resettlement and development brigades set up to train former combatants in building and agriculture.

The package is in addition to the approximately R190 million (51 million ECUs) Namibia will receive shortly under the financial protocol of the Fourth Lome Convention to which the country acceded in December 1990.

"This (R190 million), together with the convention's beef protocol, the least developed status given to Namibia, the regional programme for economic integration, and the Stabex and Sysmin instruments for development, will clearly demonstrate to Namibia the European Commission's involvement in its future," Mr Moreno said.

The EC said in a press statement 1990 statistics showed 30 per cent of aid to Namibia came from EC grants, and together with bilateral contributions from the member states, this totalled almost 47 per cent.

The director-general of the National Planning Commission, Dr Zed Ngavirue, and Mr Moreno signed the agreement.

Zimbabwe

World Bank Head Criticizes Land Reform Plan

MB1302144392 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1415 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] Harare Feb 13 SAPA—World Bank President Lewis Preston on Thursday added his voice to criticism of proposed legislation by the Zimbabwe Government to enable it to seize white-owned farmland.

"We think there may have been not as careful drafting as might have been desirable," he said at a lunchtime meeting with journalists in Harare.

He had been asked for the World Bank's opinion of the Land Acquisition Bill, which President Robert Mugabe has promised will be presented to Parliament soon after it resumes sitting on February 25.

The bill, gazetted last month, specifically prevents land-owners from receiving fair compensation for land confiscated, and also bars them from seeking redress from the country's courts on grounds that the payment was not fair.

Mr Preston told the gathering that "everyone agreed that land reform needed to proceed because the situation (of current land tenure) was politically unsustainable".

He added, however, that in Paris in April last year, the government had agreed at a meeting to win financial support from Western donor nations and international financial institutions for its five-year Economic Reform Programme, that land reform "needed a mechanism that should be fair and efficient, and should be handled in such a way as not to discourage private sector investment".

"I sense that there is still consensus on those principles," he said. "I sense a very clear understanding that is where we are heading."

Next week Zimbabwe is to hold another donors meeting, again in Paris, to look for pledges for finances for the second year of its Structural Adjustment Programme.

Last month the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the African Development Bank committed loans of over US dollars 790 million for the programme.

Mr Preston praised the government for "the depth of commitment" to economic reform, but went on to warn that "obviously there will be some questions about the land reform programme, civil service reform and whether they have done enough contingency planning on the dangers of the drought".

Mr Preston arrived in Harare on Wednesday from Zambia, and on Thursday morning met President Mugabe. He left for South Africa where he is due to meet ANC [African National Congress] President Nelson Mandela for dinner Thursday night and—reportedly—breakfast with President F.W. de Klerk on Friday. Earlier reports said he would be meeting Finance Minister Barend du Plessis Friday.

Mr Preston said that he wanted to be "absolutely clear with both groups that if and when a political consensus is reached, the bank has got to have people on the spot doing preparatory work. It does take us a while to make a loan".

An 18-month gap—the time taken for the bank to prepare a loan—between a political resolution in South Africa and the arrival of the funds lent "would not be a very happy situation for either party, or us".

"I think that is now understood a little better by everybody," he said. "I hope this (meeting) will solidify that understanding."

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